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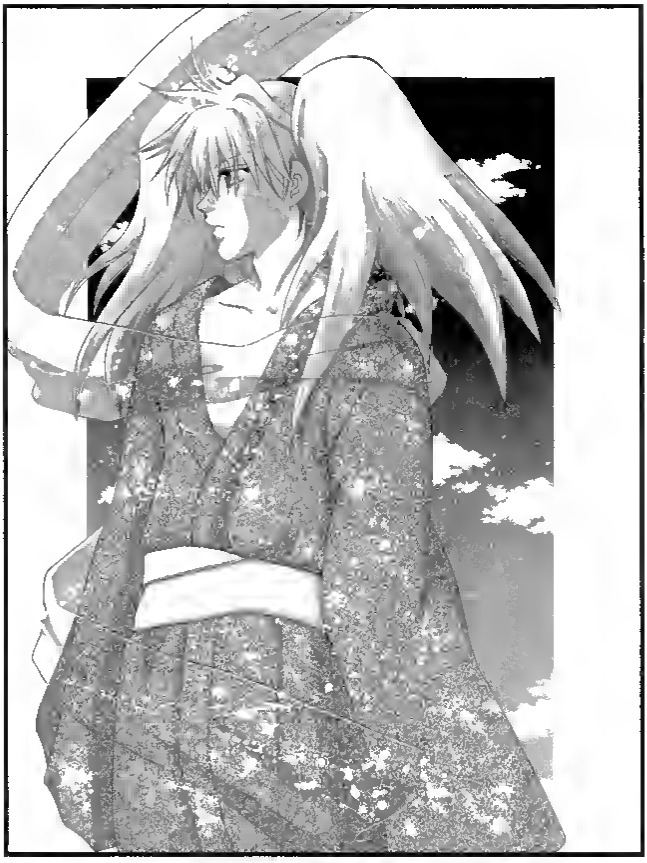

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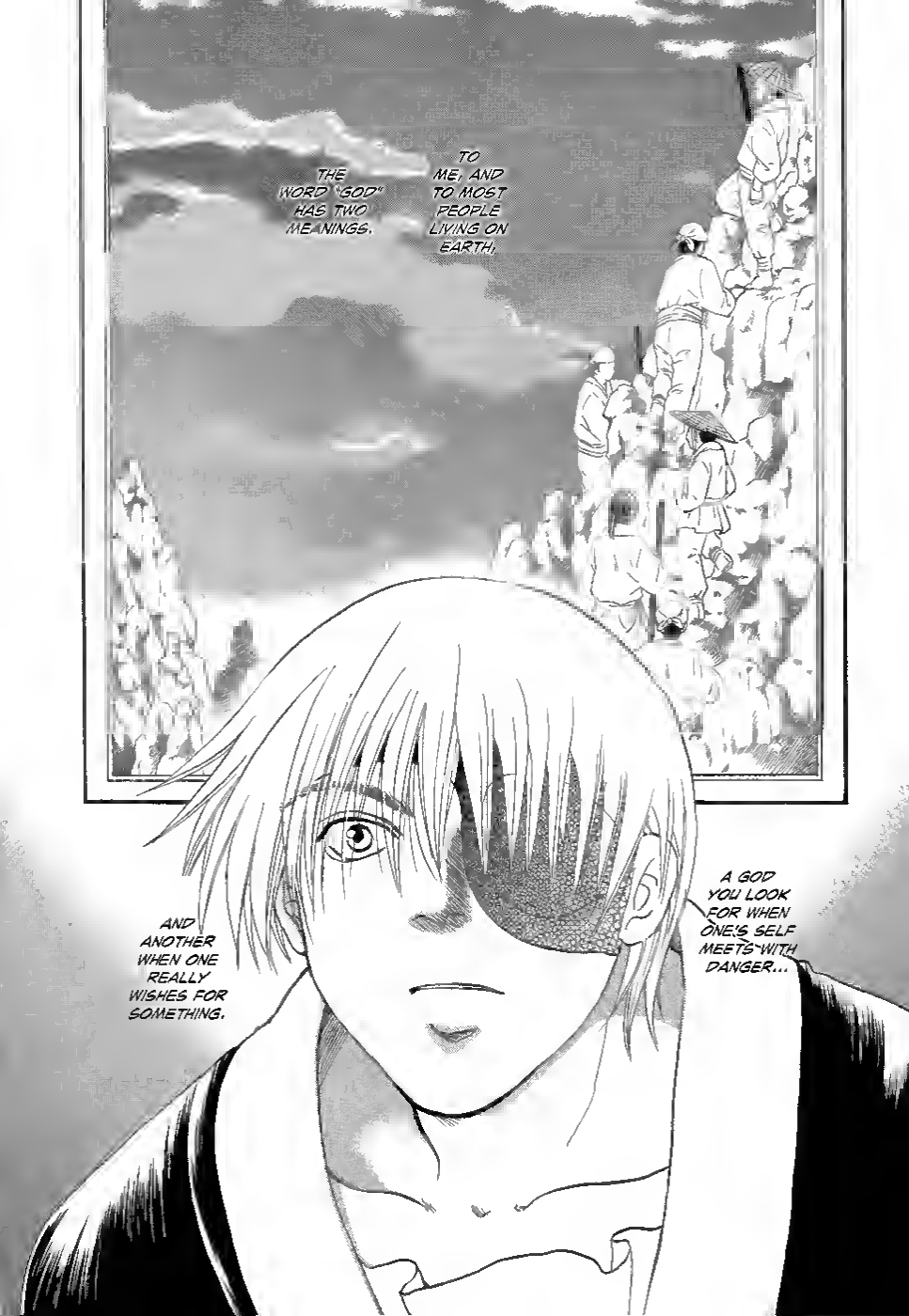
THE WORD "GOD" HAS TWO MEANINGS.
TO ME, AND TO MOST PEOPLE LIVING ON EARTH,
A GOD YOU LOOK FOR WHEN ONE'S SELF MEETS WITH DANGER...
AND ANOTHER WHEN ONE REALLY WISHES FOR SOMETHING.

WAAAH!!! MOTHER!!!
MOTHER!
WHEN I WAS A KID, THERE WAS A SCHOOLMATE OF MINE WHO
FELL INTO THE CAGE OF A TIGER OUR SCHOOL WAS RAISING, HE CRIED ALOUD,
NO...
EVEN IF YOU YELL FOR YOUR MOTHER TO COME,
YOUR MOTHER WOULD DIE, TOO...
THAT'S GOD.
By the way,
he was not saved.
TO HIM, AT THAT INSTANT, HIS MOTHER WAS GOD!
I TOO...
SAVE ME!
SOMEONE SAVE ME!
DON'T JOKE WITH ME! I DON'T WANT TO DIE!!

TO WHOM IS MY HEART YELLING TO?
I KNEW FOR A FACT THAT NO ONE WOULD COME TO HELP ME.
THAT MUST BE THE SO-CALLED GOD.
...BUT CONTRARY TO WHAT PEOPLE THINK,
"GOD" DOES EXIST IN THIS WORLD.
A LIVING "GOD" HAS A LIFE.
APPEASED IN THIS WORLD SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, THEY ARE SUPERNATURAL BEINGS HUMANS CAN NEVER COMPARE TO.

SOME LOOK LIKE BEASTS, WHILE OTHERS LOOK LIKE HUMANS.
THEY HAVE DIFFERENT APPEARANCES AND WIELD DIFFERENT POWERS.
COME ON NOW!
TAKE THAT!

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CAAW
Eh?
CROWS?!
HEY, JUST NOW
WHEN MY SNAKES BIT THE REAL FORM BEHIND THE MUSHY EYE,
DID A PAINED CRY OF A CROW SHRIEK?! I AM NOT HEARING THINGS, AM I?
But I'm sure that guy didn't open his mouth!
I DON'T KNOW!!! CAN I JUST ESCAPE?
CAN I, PLEASE?
God is scaryyyyy!!!

FINE, GO AHEAD,
BUT YOU'RE REALLY GUTLESS
I'M SORRY, BUT I'M ONLY HUMAN
HA HA HA HA HA
Already retreated 10 steps
HOW ARE YOU NORMAL? AREN'T YOU THE SAME AS THEM?
THERE'S THE SAME MUSHY THING IN YOUR EYE
NOT QUITE

WE'RE HUMANS WITH NABIKI IN OUR BODIES
WE RE THOSE WHO WERE CHOSEN TO RECEIVE THE TASK OF KAMITAGAE FROM THE CAPITAL.
WHOA!!!

WHOA!
WHOA!
WHOA!
YOU
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S SAFER TO STAY BY MY SIDE?
BUT I'M VERY SCARED OF SNAKES!!! SO WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT!
YES!!! GOD, I'M SORRY!!!
..WHERE IS YOUR NABIKI?

...HEY, WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT?
WILL YOU BE REALLY OKAY?
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
NOW THAT I'VE FOUND GOU GASHA, I HAVE NO MORE USE FOR THIS, I GUESS
ON TOP OF THAT, I CAN'T SEEM TO USE MY ORIGINAL POWERS
THE SHARD I EQUIPPED IN A HURRY WAS SLOW AS EXPECTED
IT CAN BE PLACES LIKE WATERFALLS OR MOUNTAINS, OR THINGS, SUCH AS ROCKS YOU GUYS LIVE IN THEM!
NABIKI IS A NECESSITY FOR THE KAMI TO EXERT THEIR POWER OVER THE WORLD

ゴゴ…
I DON'T NEED YOU ANYMORE
STOP CLINGING ON TO ME.
AH!

LOOK!
IT IS A CROW!
PLUS, THAT WAS A SHARD. WITHOUT A DWELLING, IT CAN'T MAINTAIN ITSELF FOR VERY LONG
WHEN IT LOSES ITS NABIKI IT RESIDES IN, IT DISSI-PATES
EVEN THOUGH IT PROBABLY WANTED TO STICK TO MY EYE, YOUR SNAKES BLOCKED HIM, SO HE COULDN'T GET ANY CLOSER
...I DON'T REALL GET IT, BUT YOUR EYE IS ALSO THAT NABIKI YOU SPEAK OF?
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BUT...
KIND OF.
ACTUALLY, THIS ISN'T MY EYE.
IF YOU ARE A GOD, THE NABIKI THAT YOU RESIDE IN MUST BE SOME-WHERE.
A CERTAIN PLACE,
OR SOME-THING ENTIRELY DIFFE-RENT.
GODS ARE ACTUALLY AN EXISTENCE THAT CANNOT BE SEEN.

JUST BY RESIDING IN THINGS WITH A PHYSICAL FORM,
THEY CAN CATALYZE WITH THAT OBJECT TO APPEAR IN THIS WORLD.
DO YOU GET IT?
YOU MUST NEVER LET ANYONE KNOW WHERE YOUR NABIKI IS.
IT IS A NECESSITY FOR YOU TO PHYSICALLY APPEAR AND, ALSO,
TO PROTECT YOUR VITAL SPOT
...THEN,
THAT CROW WAS REALLY STUPID

JUST NOW, HE TOLD US ABOUT THE FACT THAT HIS VITAL POINTS WERE IN HIS BODY
...IT WON'T BE THAT EASY TO CRUSH IT
SO,
WHERE IN THE BODY DO YOU THINK IT IS?
FOR REFERENCE'S SAKE...
FOR A KAMITAGAE WHO SERVES THE CAPITAL,
IT'S USUALLY INTERNAL
IT SHOULD BE AMONG HIS ORGANS

THIS...
IS REALLY A HEAD-ACHE.
COLLECT-ING GOU GASHA'S BODY WAS THE ORIGI-NAL PLAN.
WHO AND WHERE IS THAT LITTLE ONE FROM.
OH WELL. I'LL WAIT FOR THE MOMENT AND LEAD THE ONE WHO WON BY THE NOSE.
OOPS
!!!
A MAP?
THIS IS PRETTY OLD

SO LOUD!!!
A MAP LIKE THIS...
ISN'T SOMETHING A PERSON FROM THE CAPITAL WOULD HAVE...
THEN THIS MUST BELONG TO THE LITTLE ONE
I DISCOVERED SOMETHING GOOD IN AN UNEXPECTED PLACE
...SO NOSTALGIC...

!!
MY HEAD HURTS!!! SO FREAKING NOISY!!!
EH? HEY!!!
HEY!!!
YOU IDIOT!!! ARE YOU OKAY?!

...THAT LITTLE ONE.
LOOKS LIKE HE'S NOT FULL FAMILIAR WITH FIGHTING
IF I THINK ABOUT IT,
EVEN IF IT'S ONLY FOR A MOMENT, NO MATTER WHO THE OPPONENT, LETTING THAT LOWLY KAMITAGAE WIN IS REVOLTING